CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method of forming an image using a CMOS image sensor comprising:

capturing a plurality of frames using said image sensor;

identifying a reference point in each of said plurality of images;

aligning said plurality of frames using said reference point; and

combining said plurality of frames into said image.

2.   The method of Claim 1 wherein said combining is an arithmetic combination of like pixels in said plurality of images.

3.   The method of Claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of images are captured using substantially the same exposure time.

4.   A method of forming a high dynamic range image using a CMOS image sensor comprising:

capturing a first frame using said image sensor;

storing said first frame in a frame memory;

identifying a reference point in said first frame;

capturing a second frame using said image sensor;

aligning said second frame to said first using said reference point; and

adding said second frame to said first frame in said frame memory.

5   5.   The method of Claim 4 wherein additional frames are captured by said image sensor, aligned using said reference point, and added to said frame memory.

        6.   The method of Claim 4 wherein said adding is an arithmetic combination of like pixels in said first and second frames.

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        7.   The method of Claim 4 wherein each of said first and second frames are captured using substantially the same exposure time.